

Nicholas Van Zyl

Your class was definitely among my favourites at NYCDA. Learning with you has helped me countless times. I will never stop finding the joy in the revealing my true South African background & accent, after using the dialect you taught me, as an initial introduction to myself.

I used your teachings for practically every audition in the US, my first (and probably the only notable) role I got was a short film with me as the lead, it was set and shot in Michigan and according to my director, my dialect fit the character perfectly - he likened it to that of a child actor on a Disney show.

I always considered your method of teaching unique and engaging, when working with large groups you were not intimidated. You made certain to listen to everyone's attempt and correct them accordingly. Our exercises were such that there was a form of science or theory behind the practical application of speaking lines in a different dialect. You would go so far as to describe the literal tongue placement in order to achieve a certain sound.

You set the goal of achieving a dialect that had no particular influence from any region in the US, just sounding American was the goal, nothing so specific that one would be asked: "Where are you from?" in conversation but specific enough for no one to ever doubt you were an American.

I enjoyed our classes thoroughly and found a sense of personal achievement in every class. The wonderful thing about dialects, is that you can test them out on unsuspecting people to determine how far you've come. And the best part about having you as a teacher, is that you always had an answer to every problem. Where Jimmy may think my accent was very believable, you'd be able to give me 3 reasons why, 2 exercises to improve and an actor whose voice I should learn to appropriate.